

The Rush County Council met for the annual budget hearings and adoptions on Wednesday September 15 and Thursday, September 16th, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, John Pavey, Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Leigh Morning, Attorney, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order. Minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting were approved on a motion by Gerald Mohr, seconded by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

The Council met each office holder and department head to discuss their proposed budget(s).

CIRCUIT COURT

- **ADULT PROBATION USER FEES**

Judge David Northam informed the council that health insurance had not been budgeted for full time probation officer Joe Jarman. An additional appropriation will need to be prepared and approved by the council in January.

- **CIRCUIT COURT**

Judge David Northam informed the council that Juvenile Probation Officer Catherine Custer has moved up in her longevity classification which resulted in a state increase in her pay for 2011. The council discussed with Judge Northam the possibility of going to a four (4) day work week in 2011.

RUSH MEMORIAL AMBULANCE

Brad Smith, CEO of Rush Memorial Hospital reviewed the 2009 and the 2010 Rush Memorial Ambulance financial statements. Smith reported that as of August of 2010 there was \$183,328.00 cash available for future ambulance expenses.

Smith reported when questioned that the road construction had proven significant impact to the hospital. The hospital has lost an average of two hundred (200) visits per month in the emergency room.

Smith reported that the hospital is currently in the process of restructuring the ambulance management and not replacing a position vacated by Mike Buckley. This position will be absorbed by hospital personnel.

After further discussion Smith advised the council that the county must decide what level of service it wants to provide the community. Smith finished by saying that cuts can be made.

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Brian Hill reviewed his 2010 budget. Judge Hill informed the council that the remaining 2010 appropriations would not cover one (1) jury trial.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Bryan Barrett, Chief Public Defender, discussed areas of possible reduction. Barrette indicated that he could further tap into the Supplemental Public Defender fund #167 if the council needed to reduce the pauper attorney.

Kevin Spilman questioned Barrett as to how he could defend a City Police Officer. Barrett explained that this work is being done outside of his county time and that he does not use county equipment. Barrett explained that his contract with the Public Defender Board allows him to do outside work. Jeff Sherwood assured the council that Barrett does a good job.

EMA

Mike Ooley, EMA Director, informed the council that the county passed both the 2009 and the 2010 assessment process that allows the 50% salary reimbursement. Ooley reported that the state continues to push towards a full time EMA director but Rush County has gotten by with a part time director.

Ooley reported that the county is currently state compliant but if the county loses this we will have problems in the future in disaster situations dealing with FEMA.

Ooley asked the council to keep part time Deputy Director Rob Puckett position in the budget. Ooley offered to work his budget around to continue the position and reminded the council that the state pays 50% salary reimbursement. The council asked Ooley for him to submit his 2010 budget cuts to the auditor by the end of Wednesday.

PROSECUTOR

- **PROSECUTOR I-VD**

Paul Barada, Jr., Prosecutor informed the council that the Fund #111 IV-D Incentive (County general share) can only be used for child support related expenses. Barada explained that part-time IV-D Deputy Melinda Bundy is currently paid from the County General IV-D department. Barada proposed paying Bundy from fund #111 beginning January 2011. The council was all supportive of the transition. Barada will need to submit paperwork for an Additional Appropriation to be approved in January of 2011.

- **PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION**

Barada was reminded that the fund #35 Pre-Trial Diversion for which he funds his special Investigator will be running out of funds by the end of 2011.

EXTENSION

Kristie Amos, Purdue Extension Educator, appeared before the council with other extension board members Gracie Marlatt, Alan Meyer and Will Schakel. Amos reminded the council that the 2010 and 2011 budget cuts had been addressed during the September 1, council

meeting. Amos did inform the council that both of the extension secretaries have a lot of seniority. Amos finished with asking the council to consider returning the summer part time help back to the extension budget.

AUDITOR

Deborah Adams, Auditor, reviewed 2010 and 2011 budget cuts. Adams reported that utilizing the revenue generated from the plat book fund (#110) and the GIS Electronic Map fund (#120) will be used to supplement the auditor's budget cuts.

Adams reported that for the first time in several years tax billing has been on time for 2009 pay 2010 and will continue for 2010 pay 2011 due to a joint effort with the Assessor. Adams reported that her staff has finished updating the state data site with the pink homestead verification sheets.

TREASURER

Mary Ann Beard, Treasurer, reported that she is still looking at contracting with MainSource Bank for printing of the tax statements for 2011.

Beard informed the council that she is chairperson of the AIC Legislative Committee. Beard asked the council to retain in the commissioner's budget the \$400 for the annual NACO dues. Beard explained that many Rush County residents without health insurance benefit from the savings of the drug card that is available thru NACO.

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, asked the council to consider allowing him to retain the soon to be vacant deputy position of Mark Click. Sherwood stressed that a loss in a deputy would equal a delay in services.

Sherwood gave a brief pension report stating that Morgan Stanley had reported that they were in good shape.

County Attorney Leigh Morning reminded the council of the sheriff's contract expiring at the 2010 year end.

JAIL

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reviewed the 2010 budget, noting that electricity is running short for 2010 but that he may be able to make adjustments in other areas.

Discussion was held regarding continuing splitting the pay of one dispatcher in county general/E-911. It was decided to remove the employee from county general and E-911 and to pay them as a dispatcher from the Wireless E-911 Fund (#200). An additional appropriation will be required in January for the dispatcher.

RECORDER

Sally Niedenthall, Recorder, reviewed her budget. Niedenthall did inform the council that the reader machines are old and that she is holding onto the monies within the Recorder Perpetuation fund #11 for future equipment replacement. Niedenthall updated the council of the training that the Recorders are required to receive by the state. Work volume has reduced within the office due to the state.

ASSESSOR

JoAnn Herbert, Assessor, informed the council that Intat has contacted her of a \$1.5 million amendment that they plan to make to their personal property for 2010 pay 2011. Herbert reported that the deadline for this is November 16, 2010. Deborah Adams informed the council that this will result in a Correction of Error following the abstract.

The council asked Herbert for any reduction recommendations for the 2010 or 2011 budget. Herbert declined to make any comments stating her reasons were due to the negative comments spoken by certain individuals during the past two years.

The council thanked Herbert for her honesty and her years of dedication and hard work on behalf of Rush County

HEALTH

Dr. Bruce Fenimore, Health Board President, appeared before the council in the absence of Health Officer Dr. Davis Ellis to present the health budget for 2011.

Jerry Kent questioned Dr. Fenimore regarding the Health Department closing the office during the lunch hour as to this is a violation of the New Personnel Policy that was placed into effect by the commissioners January 1, 2010. Terri Nigh, Health Secretary, spoke saying that it has been this way for the past ten (10) years. Dr. Fenimore said that he would make a note of the change and discuss it at the next health board meeting.

CORONER

Ann Moster, Coroner, appeared before the council offering her budget reductions for 2010 and 2011. Moster noted that several items was easier to run through her business and she did not mind.

Moster did inform the council that the department may run short in funding autopsies as the cost per an autopsy is approximately \$1,500.00

AREA PLAN

Bill Todd, Area Plan Director, reviewed the 2011 budget and offered reductions for both the 2010 and 2011 budget. Todd asked the council to allow the inclusion of the flood plan insurance study for the 2011 budget. Todd noted that this would be a onetime study and would resolve many issues.

CLERK

Debbie Richardson, Clerk, presented the 2011 budget. The council questioned the guidelines of the Clerk Record Perpetuation Fund #104. Council members also questioned not receiving any 2010 budget cuts, and asked to receive them by the end of the work day. Discussion was held on the possibility of the courts going to a four (4) day work week and what this would do to the clerk's office.

I-T

Randy Herbert, I-T Technician, presented the 2011 budget and offered reductions for the 2010 and 2011 budget year.

LUNCH

Recessed for lunch 11:55 until 1:15

COMMISSIONERS

Tom Barnes, Commissioner Chairman, presented the commissioners budget offering several reductions in both the 2010 and 2011 budgets. Barnes noted that for the 2011 budget service clubs were decreased by twenty (20%) percent. Barnes reported that jail inmates can be utilized towards the assistance with cleanup in the animal control building. Barnes spoke that the commissioners recommended wage increases for county employees due to increases not being received for 2010.

Barnes spoke that the commissioners are here to provide a service to the tax payers. If we can't provide this service then close the doors. Treasurer Mary Ann Beard spoke up saying that the tax caps are forcing us to this position.

COURTHOUSE

Tom Barnes, Commissioner Chairman, presented the courthouse budget once again offering several reductions in both the 2010 and 2011 budgets.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, presented the 2011 budget noting that it was the same as presented for 2010 and that the salaries are the same as were for 2008.

Sitton reported:

- Two (2) bridges will be letting in 2011 and may require additional appropriations.
- Cost of oil and stone has risen above inflation - almost triple the cost per mile
- Wheel tax increase will kick in January 2011

Sitton reported that he miscalculated in his FICA/Insurance for the 2011 budget and asked if the council could make the transfer within the budget now instead of later. Gerald Mohr made the motion to allow the \$10,555.00 transfer from #2-204-1-1 into #2-204-1-2; \$2,833.00 from 204-1-1 into 2-202-2-7; \$31,538.00 from #2-204-1-1 into #2-204-1-4. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sitton reported that two (2) employees are retiring by the end of the 2010 year and that he will not be replacing them at this current time.

SURVEYOR

Marvin Rees reviewed the 2011 proposed budget with the council. Norman Winkler questioned Rees as to the secretary reading a book. Rees informed the council that Gordon keeps all work up to date and will soon have a huge water shed that will keep her very busy. Rees noted that Gordon has had to disqualify herself as secretary to the drainage board several times due to conflict of interest.

Jerry Kent asked Rees to consider the possibility of combining his secretary with other office secretary duties. Rees indicated that this person was perhaps in the APC they would need to be able to read a deed. Rees asked the council to consider offering health insurance to part-time employees as that is the purpose his employee currently works.

Jerry Kent asked Rees for an update on the drainage board solution for the interest on the Wycoff/Sam Young Loan. Commissioner Tom Barnes reported that no solution was reached. Discussion in regards to the loan terms as prepared by Ice Miller was held. Barnes shared his desire to relieve the debt of the interest. After further discussion of the project, the interest being paid up front and how the calculations were made Tom Barnes reported that another hearing is scheduled for September 27, 2010. Barnes invited the council to attend. Barnes also asked the council to please not ignore the drainage board.

RECESS

Jerry Kent made the motion to recess until 8:00 am Thursday, September 16, 2010. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

Chairman Norman Winkler reconvened the Council Budget Adoption meeting at 8:00 am with all council members present.

RUSH COUNTY SOLID WASTE

County Auditor Deborah Adams informed the council that they failed to review with Solid Waste Director the 2011 Budget on Wednesday as advertised and required. Adams reported that she is waiting for direction from the DLGF (Dept. Local Gov. Finance) as to how the council should proceed.

EMA

Remove part-time EMA director

APC

Remove part-time

SURVEYOR

Remove part-time

RECORDER

Remove part-time

COMMISSIONER

Raleigh Fire Chief Verlin Custer submitted an annual emergency statistic run sheet for the council to review. Custer noted that their goal is a 30 minute or less response time to Rush Memorial Hospital. Due to road construction they are being delayed five (5) minutes. Gerald Mohr encouraged Custer to share this information with state legislators. Council members praised Custer and the Fire Department for their services to the county.

LIBRARY BOARD

Due to conflict of interest John Pavey abstained from the vote. There were three (3) applicants submitted. Kevin Spilman made the motion to appoint Lou Starkey to the Library Board. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Deborah Adams reported following discussion with Wayne Hudson of the DLGF that the Council could make the exception hold the first reading and the adoption on the same day.

Jerry Kent made the motion to approve the first reading of the Solid Waste Budget. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Pavey made the motion to adopt the budget without any changes. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH MEMORIAL AMBULANCE

As per the council request, Deborah Adams did offer suggests on how to possibly fund the RMH Ambulance contract and to also meet the DLGF required budget cuts. Jerry Kent cut Adams off informing her that he was not interested in her suggestions or solutions or what the DLGF required.

POSTAGE

Remove postage from all departments' postage with the exception of: Extension, Health, Sheriff, and Commissioner

EMS

Milroy Vol. Fire Dept and Carthage Ambulance will return to the 2010 rate.

Raleigh Fire Dept was promised an increase during the 2010 contract negotiations. The council will honor that request for the budget year 2011.

ECDC

The council decided to wait until the final budget approval is received from the DLGF before making any 2011 budget changes.

COURTHOUSE CAMERA

The courthouse security camera is not working. I-T Technician Randy Herbert has been informed

HEALTH DEPT

Deborah Adams asked if the council was going to review the health budget. Jerry Kent said No.

VETERANS SERVICE

Deborah Adams asked if the council was going to review the Veterans Service budget for any changes. Jerry Kent said No.

TOTAL BUDGET CUTS

Adams reminded the council that the DLGF is requiring \$1.6 million in cuts within the 2010/2011 budgets of County General, Reassessment, Health. Thus far the council had come up with and approved \$1,443.009 in cuts. Jerry Kent said to submit the budget to the state and see what they come back with. Adams did remind the council of the Health Department shortfall of tax levy in 2009 due to their not cutting what the state instructed.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Jerry Kent made the motion to approve and sign the 2011 budget adoption. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LINE TWO REDUCTIONS

John Pavey made the motion to approve Resolution 2010-18. Jerry Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RUSH COUNTY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2010-18 LINE 2 REDUCTION RESOLUTION

Whereas, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations have unobligated balances that will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further ordained (resolved) that the following total appropriations:

A reduction of appropriations from within the 2010 **County General** Budget totaling **\$439,266.91** will be reduced for the current 2010 year.

A reduction of appropriations from within the 2010 **Reassessment** Budget totaling **\$48,986.70** will be reduced for the current 2010 year.

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2010

NAY

AYE

/s/Norman Winkler_____
/s/John Pavey_____
/s/Gerald Mohr_____
/s/Warren Norris_____
/s/Bruce Levi_____
/s/Kevin Spilman_____
/s/Jerry Kent_____

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams_____
Deborah C. Adams
Rush County Auditor

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Jerry Kent. John Pavey seconded the motion, motion carried.

/s/Norman Winkler_____
Norman Winkler, Chairman

/s/John Pavey_____
John Pavey

/s/Gerald Mohr_____
Gerald Mohr

/s/Warren Norris_____
Warren Norris

/s/Bruce Levi_____
Bruce Levi

/s/Kevin Spilman_____
Kevin Spilman

/s/Jerry Kent_____
Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams_____
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor